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Montreal, Canada
March 26, 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hua et al
Serial No.: 09/994,075
Filed: November 27, 2001
Title: A Method For Reducing Alkaline Darkening Of
Mechanical Pulp Containing A Calcium Carbonate Filler
Group Art Unit: 1731
Examiner: Marc S. Alvo
Agent of Record: Kevin Murphy Tel: (514) 847-4293

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

MAR 27 2003

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231
U.S.A.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
SUPPLEMENTAL - NO FEE

Sir: Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR 1.56, copies of the references listed on the attached PTO Form SB/08A are submitted herewith.

It is hereby certified that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to the Applicant or any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c), or cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application, more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the submission of the present information is not to be construed as an admission that such information is, or is considered to be material to patentability.

The Examiner is kindly requested to consider these references during the examination of the above-identified application, making the references of record, and to return an initialed copy of the PTO-SB/08A Form to the below-signed agent.

The two references were cited in an Office Action from the Canadian Patent Office dated January 7, 2003. CA 2 209 014 is the Canadian counterpart of WO96/20308 already of record (item N in PTO-892 attached to Paper No. 3).

Japanese Patent 1085397 teaches the use of a sulfur dye to make paper containing calcium carbonate filler. Sulfur dye is black, and is used mainly for black shade of paper. Sulfur dye is not a sulphite and is not a reducing agent and thus cannot be used to prevent alkaline darkening. In fact the sulfur dye used in Miyamoto's disclosure was to **decrease** paper brightness (delustering). The brightness reduction with sulfur dye is evident by the results in all three tables cited in the Patent. In addition, the Miyamoto Patent relates to a pulp slurry consisting of bleached hardwood and softwood kraft pulp. Unlike mechanical pulps, bleached kraft pulps do **not** contain lignin. Thus, bleached kraft pulp would **not** darken in the presence of calcium carbonate. Therefore, darkening is not a problem in Miyamoto's Patent.


The teaching of Miyamoto are unrelated to those of the present invention. The teachings are not concerned with mechanical pulps and do not have the problems associated with mechanical pulps to which the present invention is directed.

The analysis already of record with respect to WO 96/20308 applies equally to the Canadian counterpart CA 2 209 014.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures -
Form PTO/SB/08A
Copies of 2 references

Substitute for form 1449A and B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	09/994,075
				Filing Date	11-27-2001
				First Named Inventor	Hua
				Art Unit	1731
				Examiner Name	Marc S. Alvo
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	10326-54US-1

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Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

